


Utica Public Library
Historical Fiction
Selected List

Various writers have undertaken to build romance upon history; but few are aware how much of history itself is nothing more than legend and romance.

Thomas Wright

Utica, N. Y.

1911



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Alternates

<https://archive.org/details/historicalfictio00utic>

028.431

U89h

1911

cop 2

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

The term historical fiction may have many shades of meaning. It ranges from the novel in which the characters are taken from real persons and in which the events described actually took place, to that where the background only has a foundation of history.

All have a useful place, aside from the intrinsic interest of the story. Often the so-called semi-historical novel portrays the period in which it is laid in such manner as to arouse interest in the actual facts, as much as the novel with greater claims to historical accuracy. For this reason the term has been used in its broadest sense in compiling this list. The books chosen cover many of the chief historical periods in our own and foreign countries, but the list is not chronologically complete, nor does it include all the best novels of those periods. The aim has been rather to provide a list in convenient form to meet the frequent requests for a "good historical novel," and to help those who enjoy fiction that has an interest aside from the story.

Occasional note is made of a history or a book of biography or travel that parallels the theme of some novel in the list.

According to the rules of the library, one or more books of history or other subjects may be taken with the books of fiction.

“To make the past present, to bring the distant near, to place us in the society of a great man, or on the eminence which overlooks the field of a mighty battle, to invest with the reality of human flesh and blood beings whom we are too much inclined to consider as personified qualities in an allegory, to call up our ancestors before us with all their peculiarities of language, manners and garb, to show us over their houses, to seat us at their tables, to rummage their old-fashioned wardrobes, to explain the uses of their ponderous furniture—these parts of the duty which properly belongs to the historian have been appropriated by the historical novelist.”

—*From Lord Macaulay's critical essay
on Hallam's Constitutional History.*

HISTORICAL NOVELS

United States

Altsheler, Joseph. Young trailers. Kentucky.

Tale of a boy's life in the days of the early settlement of Kentucky, of capture by the Indians and final release. Faithful in spirit and description to the conditions and times.

—A. L. A. Booklist.

Sequel is Forest runners.

Austin, Jane. Standish of Standish. Colonial.

Story of the Pilgrims of Plymouth colony, in the 17th century.—Nation.

Sequel is Betty Alden.

Bacheller, Irving. D'ri and I. War of 1812.

D'ri is a big, brawny, raw-boned northwoodsman, who shoulders a musket and goes out to help fight the soldiers of King George in the war of 1812.—Bookman.

Barr, A. E. Bow of orange ribbon. N. Y. (city.) Colonial.

Story of New York in 1756 with a romance between a Dutch maiden and one of King George's officers.—Leypoldt.

For description of Dutch New York see Irving, Washington. Knickerbocker's history of New York.

Juvenile story of this period is Barnaby Lee, by John Bennett.

Barr, A. E. Remember the Alamo. 1814-1861.

Tale of the revolt of Americans in Texas against Mexican rule the storming of the Alamo is the great incident.—Nation.

Benson, B. K. Who goes there? Civil war.

Accurate and almost too minute account of the course of the war, giving maps and references to the War Records; with a great deal of exciting personal adventure.—Baker.

Sequel is Friend with the countersign.

Brady, C. T. For the freedom of the sea. War of 1812.

Vivid account of fight between Constitution and Guerriere.
—N. Y. State Library.

Bynner, E. L. Agnes Surriage. Colonial.

Love romance of colonial times, based on story of Sir Charles Henry Frankland.—Baker.
The Agnes of O. W. Holmes' poem.

Chambers, R. W. Cardigan. N. Y. (state). Colonial.

Early chapters have to do with life of Sir William Johnson. The scene later moves eastward, and the story finally ends with a description of the Concord fight, 1775.
—Publisher's weekly.

Churchill, Winston. The crossing. Western states of U. S.

Theme is largely the peaceful conquest of the great Louisiana territory by American citizens shortly after the Revolutionary war.—Publisher's weekly.

Churchill, Winston. Richard Carvel. Colonial.

Picture of Maryland's ante-revolutionary life and society.
—Bookman

For history of this period see Fiske, John. Old Virginia and her neighbors.

Sequel is The Crisis, a Civil war story, picturing events in St. Louis as seen by descendants of Richard Carvel.

For history of this section in the Civil war see Fiske, John. Mississippi valley in the Civil war.

Cooper, J. F. Last of the Mohicans.

French and Indian wars.

Story of adventures among Indians of northern New York during French and Indian war, 1756-60.—N. Y. State Library.

Cooper, J. F. The spy. Revolution.

The hero, the spy, is employed by Gen. Washington in service involving great personal hazard and little glory.
—Buffalo Public Library.

Devereux, Mary. From kingdom to colony. Revolution.

Story of the old town of Marblehead in the early days of the Revolution.—Publisher's weekly.

Dillon, Mary. In old Bellaire. Civil war.

The scene is in a quaint old Pennsylvania town in the early sixties.

Eggleston, Edward. Hoosier schoolmaster. 1830-35.

Picture of the lawless and homely pioneer life of mid-century Indiana, by a man who was an itinerant preacher in the West and knew that life intimately.—Baker.

For history of the westward movement see Mathews, L. K. Expansion of New England; and McMaster, J. B. History of the people of the United States from the Revolution to the Civil war.

Ford, P. L. Janice Meredith. Revolution.

Romance of the war of independence. The battles and other historical incidents, and the celebrities, e. g., Washington, Major Andre and the English generals, presented with accuracy.—Baker.

Fox, John, jr. Little shepherd of Kingdom Come.

Civil war.

The blue grass country saw dark days when Kentuckians who rode with John Morgan fought brothers in the Union Army, and Mr. Fox's story is perhaps as good an impression of sectional feeling as we have had on a Civil war theme.

—World's work.

Frederick, Harold. In the valley. Mohawk valley.

Picture of Revolutionary times in the Dutch homes of the Mohawk valley, at the Patroon's Manor House in Albany, and on the field among bullets and tomahawks.—A. H. Leypoldt.

For history of this period see Reid, W. M. Mohawk valley; its legends and its history, and Diefendorf, M. R. Historic Mohawk.

French, Allen. Colonials; being a narrative of events chiefly connected with the siege and evacuation of the town of Boston in New England. Boston.

Glasgow, Ellen. The battleground. Civil war.

Story of Virginia home life immediately before and during the Civil war.—Publisher's weekly.

Few have written more understandingly than Miss Glasgow of the gradual transformation of the old South into the new.

—Cumulative book index.

For chief events in the Civil war see Nicolay, J. G. Short life of Abraham Lincoln.

Goodwin, M. W. White aprons; a romance of Bacon's rebellion, Virginia, 1676. Colonial.

For history of this period see Fiske, John. Old Virginia and her neighbors.

Harris, J. C. Little Union Scout. Civil war.

Tale of Tennessee during the Civil war. The "scout" is a girl of Northern sympathies, who acts as a spy.

—Publisher's weekly.

Hillis, N. D. Quest of John Chapman. Colonial.

Romance of early colonial days and of the pioneer hero "Johnny Appleseed," who journeyed through Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, planting orchards for the good of future settlers.

—Pittsburgh Catalogue.

Hotchkiss, C. C. For a maiden brave. Revolution.

Romance of the Revolution. Scene is laid in and near New York.

Jewett, S. O. Tory lover. Revolution.

A love tale introducing the vigorous personality of the redoubtable Paul Jones.—Baker.

Johnston, Mary. Lewis Rand. Virginia.

An historical novel set in the administration of Jefferson.

Johnston, Mary. Long roll. Civil war.

Author's viewpoint is a southern one The reconstruction of the times, of the stout-hearted loyalty to the cause, of the agony of battles, has an epic quality in it that insures permanence to the work.—Book review digest.

Johnston, Mary. To have and to hold. Colonial.

Story of the early years of Colonial Virginia, opening in 1621.—Publisher's weekly.

Liljencrantz, O. A. Thrall of Lief the Lucky; a story of Viking days. Discovery.

Tells of a young English noble captured by the Danes and sold into slavery in Norway in the days of Olaf Trygvasson.
—Baker.

MacGowan, Alice. Sword in the mountains. Civil war.

Centers about Chattanooga and the Cumberland mountain region in the strenuous years of 1861-1865.—Book review digest.

Mitchell, S. W. Hugh Wynne. Revolution.

Social life in Philadelphia during and before the Revolution is graphically pictured from 1753-1783.—Publisher's weekly.

For histories of the Revolutionary period see Fiske, John. History of the American revolution. Fiske, John. Critical period in the United States.

Mitchell, S. W. Red city; a novel of the second administration of President Washington. Constitutional period.

Scene is laid in Philadelphia in the years following the time of "Hugh Wynne." The hero is a Huguenot emigre, whose father was murdered at Avignon by the revolutionists.

Page, T. N. Red rock; a chronicle of reconstruction.
Civil war.

Story of southern life after the Civil war in the carpet-bagging era.

For history of the Reconstruction period see Wilson, Woodrow. Division and reunion.

Parker, Sir Gilbert. Seats of the mighty.
French and Indian war.

Historical romance, culminating in the battle of Quebec.
—Baker.

For history of this period see Parkman, Francis. Montcalm and Wolfe.

Parrish, Randall. When wilderness was king. Illinois.

Story of adventure in the year 1812. Brings in the Fort Dearborn massacre.

Pyle, Howard. Story of Jack Ballister's fortunes.
Virginia.

Narrative of the adventures of a young man who was kidnapped in 1719 and carried to the plantations of Virginia, where he fell in with that famous pirate, Capt. Edward Teach, or Blackbeard.

Ray, F. A. Maid of the Mohawk. Revolution.

Romance of the picturesque Mohawk valley in the days of the American Revolution, when the Dutch held sway in the land. Customs and manners of the period are worked into the plot.—Publisher's weekly.

For history of this period in the Revolution see Reid, W. M. Story of old Fort Johnson.

Roberts, C. G. D. Forge in the forest. Colonial.

A romance of Acadia in the times of the French and Indian wars (1746-47), making use of the natural surroundings and primitive life of the colonists.—Baker.

Smith, A. P. Montlivet. French and Indian wars.

The end of the 17th century in Canada. English and French rivalries, Indian friends and foes, and a prisoner—such are the old materials for a new story told with life and freshness.
—Academy.

Stanley, C. A. Order no. 11; a tale of the border. Civil war.

Story of Kansas life during the Civil war.

Stimson, F. J. King Noanett; a story of old Virginia and the Massachusetts Bay. Colonial.

Romance of pioneer life and adventure.—Critic.

Canada

Catherwood, M. H. Romance of Dollard. Colonial.

Dollard was "the man of courageous heart," who saved New France from the Iroquois in 1660.—Buffalo Public Library.

Catherwood, M. H. Story of Tonty. Discovery.

Romantic adventure of the one-armed lieutenant who shared the hardships and triumphs of La Salle's discoveries.

—Scribner's magazine.

For history of this period see Parkman, Francis. La Salle and the discovery of the great West.

Kirby, William. Golden dog. 17th century.

Quebec in the time of Louis XIV, 1697, historical romance, rich in local colour, and based on a legendary story of the early days of fur-trading.—Baker.

Parker, Gilbert. Trail of the sword. 17 century.

An important episode is the disastrous attempt of Admiral Phips to capture Quebec from the French.—Baker.

Parker, Gilbert, Sir. When Valmond came to Pontiac.
19th century.

Valmond tries to raise an army at the Canadian village of Pontiac for the expulsion of Louis Philippe from the Tuilleries and to establish himself as rightful heir to the throne.

Roberts, C. G. D. Sister to Evangeline; being the story of Yvonne de Lamourie, and how she went into exile with the villagers of Grand Pré. Acadia. 18th century. Story of the expulsion of the Acadians.—Baker.

For description of the country of Acadia and vicinity see Morley. Down north and up along.

England

Bennett, John. Master Skylark. Elizabeth.

Master Skylark, a Stratford boy in Shakespeare's time who, falling in hard places in London, seeks the aid of his fellow-townsmen.—Dial.

Blackmore, R. D. Springhaven. 19th century.

Tale of the contemplated invasion of England by Napoleon in 1805. Both Napoleon and Nelson appear and their great fortunes are well woven with the small interests of the seaside village.—Nation.

Clemens, S. L. Prince and the pauper. Tudor.

By a strange accident the boy king, Edward VI, becomes the poor boy and the poor boy becomes the boy king and they both have strange and exciting adventures.—Pittsburgh catalog.

Doyle, A. C. Micah Clarke. Stuart.

Told by a humble adherent of the Duke of Monmouth—the whole story of the rising in Somerset, the triumphant advance towards Bristol and Bath and the tragic rout at Sedgemoor (1685).—Baker.

Eliot, George. Felix Holt, the radical. Hanover.

Toryism, time of William IV. 1830.—Osterhout.

Hewlett, Maurice. Richard Yea-and-nay. Plantagenet.

A boldly imaginative study of the life and character of Richard Coeur-de-Lion.—Baker.

Keightley, S. R. Cavaliers. Stuart.

Has for subject the Civil war in England, the victories of Cromwell and the trials of the king at Oxford and Carisbrooke Castle. Justice is not withheld from Cromwell in the striking portrayal of his character.—Dial.

Lytton, Baron Bulwer. Harold: or the last of the Saxon kings. Anglo-Saxon.

Elaborate descriptions of the battles of Stamford Bridge and Hastings and of English life in the 11th century.—Baker.

Lytton, Baron Bulwer. Last of the barons.

Lancaster and York.

Subject is Warwick the King-maker and his strife with Edward IV. The battle of Barnet (1471) is represented at length.—Baker.

Major, Charles. When knighthood was in flower, or the love story of Charles Brandon and Mary Tudor, the king's sister, and happening in the reign of His August Majesty, King Henry VIII. Tudor.

Parker, Gilbert, Sir. Weavers. 19th century.

Story of Egypt fifty years ago, but of an Egypt brought into such relations with England as to justify the attention given to English scenes and characters.—Dial.

Pyle, Howard. Men of iron. Lancaster and York.

A boy's story of the time of Henry IV. of England who, with the men of his court, are the "Men of iron."—A. L. A. Catalogue.

Scott, Sir Walter. Ivanhoe. Plantagenet.

Time of Richard I. and the Templars in 1194. Picture of Mediaeval England. Brings together some of the most romantic names of middle ages, Coeur de Lion, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, Allan-a-Dale, Isaac of York and Prince John.—Baker.

Scott, Sir Walter. Kenilworth. Elizabeth.

Tragic story of Amy Robsart, wife of Queen Elizabeth's favorite, the Earl of Leicester. Period 1575. Oxfordshire and Warwickshire are the principal scenes.—Baker.

Stevenson, R. L. Black arrow; a tale of the two roses.
Lancaster and York.

Yorkist story; the characters are outlaws, barons, men-at-arms and priests. Richard III. is prominent.—Baker.

Thackeray, W. M. Henry Esmond. Stuart.

Story is founded on the connection of a noble English family with the fallen fortunes of the Stuarts. The pictures of life in the Queen Anne period are unsurpassed for vividness and charm.—Pittsburgh Catalogue.

Weyman, S. J. Shrewsbury. Stuart.

A vivid picture of the troublous times when the Protestant succession was still in question, abounding in stirring incidents and hair-breadth escapes.—Dial.

France

Dickens, Charles. Tale of two cities. Revolution.

Scenes are in London and Paris, partly during the French Revolution. The best example of the author's serious work.
—Nation

For history of this period see Carlyle, Thomas. French revolution.

Doyle, A. C. Refugees. Bourbon.

Huguenot romance in reign of Louis XIV. Scenes in France and America. Thrilling adventures with Indians and elements.
—N. Y. State Library.

Doyle, A. C. White company. Capet and Valois.

Episode of the 100 years war with France—the exploits of a company of English bowmen in France and in Castile under the Duke of Lancaster.—Baker.

Dumas, Alexandre. Count of Monte Cristo. 1st Empire.

Edmund Dantes, the sailor of Marseilles, who acquires a colossal treasure, and becomes Count of Monte Cristo, is a world-renowned hero of fiction. Rapid and audacious narrative of action and adventure.—Baker.

Dumas, Alexandre. Three musketeers. Has also title, The three guardsmen. Bourbon.

First of the "D'Artagnan romances," followed by "Twenty years after" and "Vicomte de Bragelonne."

Cycle of three romances of which the exploits of four heroes from youth to age are the principal subjects, while a panorama is presented of contemporary history (1626-71). Political intrigue, court life, duelling and fighting form the substance of the chronicle.—Baker.

Gras, Felix. Reds of the Midi; an episode of the French Revolution. Revolution.

Story of the famous Marseilles battalion that marched to Paris with its new war-song, filled the hearts of the revolutionists with fresh courage, and took part in the attack on the Tuileries on the tenth of August.—Dial.

Hugo, Victor. Les Miserables. 1st Empire.

Time of Waterloo, 1815.

Martineau, Harriet. Peasant and prince. Bourbon.

This is a story only in its description of peasant life. The latter part of the book, in which the life of the Dauphin is described, is history written in a very spirited style. The conditions which existed in France prior to the Revolution are graphically described.

Merriman, H. S. Barlasch of the guard. 1st Empire.

Barlasch was a veteran in Napoleon's service in the desperate days when the Emperor's ebbing fortunes swept Europe with desolation. The . . . Russian campaign furnishes many of the scenes.—Publisher's weekly.

Runkle, Bertha. Helmet of Navarre. Bourbon

Romance of cape and sword, with a young adherent of Henry of Navarre for hero; scene, Paris, at a moment when the Huguenot king entered the city at the cost of a mass.
—Baker.

Sage, William. Robert Tourney. Revolution.

Romance of the French revolution.

Saintine, X. B. Picciola. 1st Empire.

Touching episode of a prisoner's life, whose only joy was a small flower in his prison yard.—Cornu & Beer.

Scott, Sir Walter. Quentin Durward. Capet and Valois.

Rich and varied picture of the age when feudalism and chivalry were about to pass away. Louis XI., Charles the Bold, the rebellious Flemings, with the outlaw De la March, the Wild Boar of Ardennes, are the chief contending parties. Period, 1468.—Baker.

Weyman, S. J. Gentleman of France. Capet and Valois.

"Hero, a Huguenot Breton, one of Conde's veterans. Romance of the time of Henry of Navarre. Stirring adventure and excellent historical setting."

Weyman, S. J. House of the wolf. Capet and Valois.

France in the reign of Charles IX. Massacre of St. Bartholomew included in the drama.—Leypoldt.

Weyman, S. J. Under the red robe. Bourbon.

Episode of Richelieu's time.—Nation.

Yonge, C. M. Chaplet of pearls. Capet and Valois.

Tells of the child marriage of Beranger and Eustacie de Ribaumont, of the treachery which separated them at the massacre of St. Bartholomew, of Eustacie's wandering, and of Beranger's adventures while seeking his bride.

—Pittsburgh Catalogue.

Other Countries

Crawford, F. M. In the palace of the king. Spain.

16th century.

Laid in the court of Philip II. at Madrid. The king's brother, the chivalrous Don John, loves a lady of the court and by his determination to marry her brings himself into collision with his hard and cruel brother, and with the more powerful of his counsellors.—Baker.

Dumas, Alexandre. Black tulip. Holland. 17th century.

A love romance with which are interwoven scenes from Dutch history in the years 1672-75, when William the Silent lent himself to the agitation directed against the brothers deWitt, the patriotic defenders of Dutch liberty.—Baker.

For history of Holland see Motley, J. L. Rise of the Dutch republic.

Ebers, G. M. Cleopatra. Egypt. B. C.

Carefully studied portrait of the Egyptian queen in a story crowded with detail, yet showing dramatic power and vigor.

—N. Y. State Library.

Eliot, George. Romola. Italy. 15th century.

Scene is in Florence under the rule of Lorenzo di Medici. The revival of taste for Greek ideals in letters and art is splendidly contrasted with the austere piety of Savonarola.

—Nation

For history of Florence and Savonarola see Hyett, F. A. Florence, her history and art. M'Hardy, George. Savonarola.

Fuller, R. H. Golden hope. Greece. B. C.

A stirring story of Athens in the days of its conquest by Alexander of Macedonia.

Kingsley, Charles. Hypatia. Egypt. 5th century.

Scene is in Alexandria, and the movement involves the spectacle of Paganism expiring in the new birth of Christianity. Hypatia is a brilliantly imagined woman and dignified, tragic figure.—Nation.

Lytton, Baron Bulwer. Last days of Pompeii. Pompeii.
1st century.

Romance of the first century, portraying life at time of the great eruption of Vesuvius.—N. Y. State Library.

Lytton, Baron Bulwer. Rienzi, the last of the Roman tribunes. Rome. 14th century.

More than a romance; a study of an important period of Italian history and a striking picture of the Roman populace of the 14th century.

Pyle, Howard. Otto of the silver hand. Germany.
Mediæval.

Spirited story of the robber barons and the feudal strongholds of mediæval Germany. Mr. Pyle tells a story well and illustrates it even better.—G. E. Hardy.

Reade, Charles. Cloister and the hearth.
Netherlands. Italy. Mediæval.

Romantic, historical novel. By many critics considered the author's best book. . . . The period immediately precedes the Reformation; Gerard, the hero is supposed to be the father of Erasmus, the reformer.—Nation.

Sienkiewicz, Henryk. With fire and sword; an historical novel of Poland and Russia. Poland. 17th century.

Sequels, The deluge and Pan Michael. Together contain the romance of the history of Poland, 1647-1751. The impression left by this work is that of a succession of scenes of battle, carnage, devastation, lust and fiery heroism. But there are quieter scenes of village life, the domestic life of the gentry, etc.—Baker.

Steel, F. A. On the face of the waters. India. 1857.

Elaborate historical story of the Indian mutiny; minutely accurate, fiction never interfering with fact. Full of terrible scenes. Careful studies of various native types and portraits of English officers and civilians.—Baker.

Wallace, Lew. Fair God; or, The last of the Tzins.
Mexico. 16th century.

An archaeologic reconstruction of Mexican life at time of conquest.—Baker.

For history of Mexico see Prescott, William. Conquest of Mexico.



3 0112 072628891



W. D. JONES & SON, PRINTERS, UTICA.